

M'ville Sewer Money Waits on EPA

129 BY LISA MAHONEY

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MERRILLVILLE — A Merrillville Conservancy District grant amendment request to help pay for cash settlements for dry wells in Calumet Township is still under review by the U.S. Environmental Agency.

Meanwhile, has spent at more than the \$338,200 the cost overrun is

the contractor dewatering along Ridge Road, has sent its crews back to work.

Construction of deep tunnels along Ridge Road was stalled for two months because of a strike of heavy equipment operators. Workers returned to the job site last week and requests for well inspections have increased, according to Chris Savarese, water emergency coordinator.

A second contractor doing sewer

district in April.

The request received state approval May 18 and was sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The EPA's Chicago office received the request from the corps in July.

Thomas Gelshecker, chief of the EPA's Indiana construction management branch, said review time for the request would take a little longer than usual because of its unique nature. "This is the first time Region V (of the EPA) has been involved in negotiations."

would be honored. The EPA set guidelines for providing residents with water the MCD must follow in order to qualify for the grant amendment.

James Flora, MCD consulting engineer, said he will ask for an additional increase in the grant as soon as it is approved.

If the grant amendment is approved, the federal government will pay 75 percent of the cost of the water emergency. The state will pick up 10 percent with the balance the MCD's responsibility.

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